



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Martin Jaffe - UIC, Marcella Bondie-Keenan (for Anne McKibben) – Elevate Energy, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Vincent Waller (for Deb Stone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Mike Sullivan – Kane / Kendall Council of Mayors, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Ed Collins – MCCD, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Nancy Williamson – IDNR

Staff Present: Jason Navota, Tim Loftus, Sam Shenbaga, Kristin Ihnchak, Zach Vernon, Dawn Thompson, Ross Patronsky, Simone Weil, Nora Beck

Others Present: Mike Klemens – WCGL, Beata Welsh – RTA, Edith Makra – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Committee co-chair, Sean Wiedel, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Given timing conflicts, Wiedel explained that the agenda would be re-ordered to cover agenda item 4.0 first; after which the agenda would proceed with item 3.0.

Nora Beck made two announcements. The 2015 meeting schedule will continue the established pattern of meeting the first Wednesday of each month with no meetings in August or December. Beck will send out the meeting times via MS Outlook. In addition, the selected LTA projects from the most recent call for projects was also announced and Beck thanked committee members for their review and feedback on the applications.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 3 meeting was made by Mike Sullivan, seconded by Martin Jaffe, and with all in favor, carried.

Patricia Werner asked for a summary of the GO TO 2040 Plan Update process, which concluded October 9 and was not reflected in the minutes. Jack Darin, as this committee's representative of the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC), explained that he voted against the GO TO 2040 Plan Update in the RCC recommendation to the CMAP Board. Ultimately, the RCC voted to recommend the Plan Update. The CMAP Board voted against the Plan Update, due to the inclusion of the Illiana Expressway, on October 8. On October 9, the MPO Policy Committee voted to approve the GO TO Plan Update.

4.0 Next Regional Plan – Jason Navota, CMAP Staff

CMAP is beginning to lay the groundwork for developing the successor to GO TO 2040, which is due to be complete in 2018. Referring to a [presentation](#), Jason Navota outlined why the agency is starting this process now, what the timeline will be, and how CMAP staff are currently approaching the planning process. Navota explained that staff teams have been created around six central topics, including one devoted to the environment and natural resources.

Like the other teams, the environment team is exploring their topic area by cataloging activities related to the natural environment that the agency has conducted since GO TO 2040, assessing the current knowledge base, and determining which issues require further investigation in the coming year. Navota presented the main topic areas the team are exploring within the environment category, which are outlined in the [memo](#). Navota presented several questions to engage the committee in a discussion, which included the following:

- In which areas should we be doing more and why?
- What regional stakeholders should we engage?
- What studies can we draw from?
- What tools / analytical methods are you aware of?

The committee had several questions and suggestions, including clarification on why CMAP determined a new plan was needed and the process for committee involvement. Navota explained that as the world has changed, the plan needs to be updated to reflect those changes; however, the goal is to build on the foundation of what was established in GO TO 2040. The first plan provided a broad vision; there's an opportunity to dive deeper on particular topics. Navota explained that the team will be coming back to the committee in January with more information on the various sub-topics and will continue to consult the committee during the four year process.

The committee then made a number of suggestions:

- Environmental risk associated with freight, i.e. the transport of hazardous materials and the pipelines in the region, should be covered.
- Technological changes, such as driverless cars and other changes that could be anticipated in this planning horizon.
- Water quality, stormwater management, and flooding should be covered more deeply than GO TO 2040.
 - Regional waterways are handling our stormwater. Who fixes it and how is that financed?
- Lake Michigan. A number of committee members noted that its lack of coverage was a major oversight of GO TO 2040.

- Evaluate the separation of the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins.
 - U.S. ACE's [GLMRIS Study](#) is a resource.
- Zoning the lake itself to protect habitat areas.
 - IDNR's [Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Report](#)
- U.S. EPA's [Clean Power Plan](#) guidelines to be finalized in June 2015, State Plans due end of 2016.
- Invasives. Could be covered in the green infrastructure category along with other management issues.
- National Ambient Air Quality Standards. EPA Region 5 has launched a new website that contains the new draft FY 2014 EPA Regions-to-Headquarters Performance Commitments for state and local review.

5.0 Northwest Water Planning Alliance – Tim Loftus, CMAP Staff

Formed in 2010, the [Northwest Water Planning Alliance](#) (NWP) is a coalition of river and groundwater dependent communities who have self-organized to collaboratively plan for the use of their shared water resources. Using a [presentation](#), Tim Loftus provided an overview of the NWP, their [three-year strategic plan](#), and the accomplishments to date.

The NWP was born of an intergovernmental agreement involving five counties and five COGs representing over 70 communities and is one of the more substantive outcomes of the Water 2050 planning process. The accomplishments include developing an outdoor watering ordinance, being recognized as an organizing group by IDNR and IEPA, and promoting the use of a monthly online water use reporting tool to satisfy annual IWIP obligations (which could be a model for the rest of the state). Loftus also presented data on surface and groundwater withdrawals for the alliance. He also explained that the outdoor lawn watering ordinance is based on the U.S. drought monitor. The Prairie Research Institute is developing an estimate of groundwater supply.

The committee asked several follow up questions. Werner asked a clarifying question about the implementation of the outdoor lawn watering ordinance. Loftus explained that the NWP recommended to its members the adoption of the ordinance, but it is up to individual communities to actually do that. Jaffe asked about the effectiveness of outdoor lawn watering ordinances, wondered if there has been an evaluation of Lake Michigan permittees since they have had to have one since 1967. Loftus confirmed that no evaluation has been done of this group and that the ordinances in place vary in structure. Dooley asked about enforcement and Loftus explained that it is largely self-enforced.

6.0 The Greenest Region Compact: A Consensus Sustainability Plan for Municipalities – Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC)

The Greenest Region Compact (GRC) is a simple pledge, taken more than one third of all municipalities in the Chicago metropolitan region in 2007 to take action to improve the environment. Using a [presentation](#), Edith Makra reported on their background research to better inform the next update of the GRC by the MMC. The objective is to propose a framework for a new GRC that is modeled on existing municipal sustainability plans; incorporates successful programs, policies, and other indicators of environmental achievement by municipalities; and aligns with goals and strategies of regional, national and global significance.

The committee asked several follow up questions and provided feedback:

- Consider including the Chicago Climate Action Plan
- Environmental justice, are low-income, diverse communities not getting funding for environmental projects? Are they not engaging in sustainability planning? There was no screening/analysis for this factor.
- Does community size correlate with environmental achievements? There was no screening/analysis for this factor.
- Were County plans included in the analysis? Lake County was because it was structured in a way that is similar to municipal plans.
- Concern about using third-party sources to track progress, aka grant lists. What about communities who are funding these actions directly?

8.0 Public Comment

No public comments.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

10.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 11:05 am, made by Martin Jaffee, seconded by Jack Darin and with all in favor, carried.